

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 17, and 18 are amended. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 18 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by amending each of independent claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 14, and by rewriting allowable claim 18 in independent form and to include the subject matter of intervening claim 17.

This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 4-6 are allowed, and that claims 9, 10, 14-16, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowed/allowable subject matter. In response, each of independent claims 1 and 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 14, and allowable claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and to include the subject matter of intervening claim 17.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-7, 8, 11, 13, 17, 18, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (U.S. 5,699,872) in view of AAPA shown as FIGS. 6 and 7; and

claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. in view of AAPA FIGS. 6 and 7, and further in view of Tsukahara et al. and JP09-207855.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 11, and 18

As noted above, and while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application,

independent claims 1 and 11 have each been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 14, and

allowable claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and to include intervening claim 17.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 11, and 18 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Miyakawa et al., AAPA FIGS. 6 and 7, and Tsukahara et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 7, 9, and 17 have been added.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

*Application No.: 10/733,410
Amendment dated July 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2007*

*Docket No.: 0649-1004PUS1
Art Unit: 3616
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CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

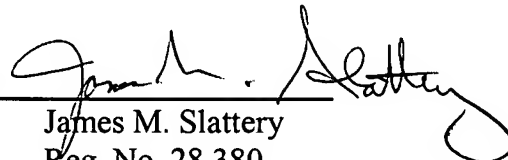
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Date: **July 5, 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

By



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